

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 12-15, 157, and 179 are currently pending in this application.

Priority Claim

Pursuant to the amendment of priority claim in U.S. application 11/980,994, Applicants have amended the priority claim of the instant application to indicate that this application is no longer considered a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/379,149, filed on March 4, 2003 (now abandoned), which claimed the benefit of priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/361,759, filed on March 4, 2002. Thus, the priority date of the instant application is the filing date of October 24, 2004. Applicants make this amendment solely to be consistent with the amended priority claim in U.S. application 11/980,994. Entry and consideration of this amendment are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. If any discussion of this Amendment would be deemed helpful, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below and is assured of full cooperation in progressing the application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 18, 2008

Michelle A. Iwamoto
Ivor R. Elrifi, Reg. No. 39,529
Michelle A. Iwamoto, Reg. No. 55,296
Attorneys/Agents for Applicants
c/o MINTZ, LEVIN, *et al.*
666 Third Avenue-24th Floor
New York, New York 10017
Telephone: (212) 935-3000
Telefax: (212) 983-3115
Tel: (212) 692-6296
Fax: (212) 983-3115